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Claim 12. The canister of claim 11 wherein said leak testing components comprise an L-shaped hole connected to a vertical channel in said shield plug, said channel communicating with the interior of said canister.

Claim 13. The canister of claim 12 further comprising a pipe plug disposed in a vertical leg of said L-shaped hole.

Claim 14. The canister of claim 13 further comprising an outer seal plate boss on said outer seal plate, a pipe plug in said outer seal plate boss, and a seal plug in said outer seal plate for sealing an opening in said seal plate.

#### REMARKS

The support for newly added claims 10-14 can be found inter alia on page 7, lines 1-4 and in claim 7.

Claim 1 is generic and includes shear rings and canister shells in which the mating surfaces between the shear ring and the canister shell are tapered or not tapered. Claims 1-5 and new claims 10-14 read on the elected species.

Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Respectfully submitted,

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U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

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SERIAL NO.: 09/779,894

In response to office action dated September 6, 2001:

CLEAN VERSION OF ADDED CLAIMS

Claim 10. The canister of claim 4 further comprising a space for air or gas between said outer seal plate and said shield plug.

Claim 11. The canister of claim 10 including leak testing components.

Claim 12. The canister of claim 11 wherein said leak testing components comprise an L-shaped hole connected to a vertical channel in said shield plug, said channel communicating with the interior of said canister.

Claim 13. The canister of claim 12 further comprising a pipe plug disposed in a vertical leg of said L-shaped hole.

Claim 14. The canister of claim 13 further comprising an outer seal plate boss on said outer seal plate, a pipe plug in said outer seal plate boss, and a seal plug in said outer seal plate for sealing an opening in said seal plate.

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